AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of modifying content data transmitted from a first computer to a second computer over a bi-directional communications network, comprising:

specifying content data output characteristics to be associated with the content data upon output by the second computer;

transmitting the content data from the first computer to the second computer over the bi-directional communications network; and

altering the content data that is to be output by the second computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics specified through the first computer, the output characteristics identifying an expression to be applied to the content data, and the altering includes converting an audio component of the content data to text data <u>through a voice recognition process</u>, the text data being processed into converted text data, and the converted text data being synthesized into audio data that includes the applied expression that does not perform language translation.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the content data in the first computer; and

outputting the altered content data from the second computer.

3.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the content data output characteristics include location information of the first and second computers, the location information affects the altering of the content data.

4.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the received content data comprises voice data input into the first computer.

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the altered content data being transmitted for output through speakers coupled to the second computer.

6.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the content data output characteristics include at least one of character gender, character condition, and character environment.

7.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the content data output characteristics are defined by input received by the first computer through a user interface.

8.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the content data output characteristics are defined by input received by the second computer through a user interface.

9.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the content data output characteristics are stored in a database residing in a memory storage coupled to the second computer.

10.   (Currently amended) A method of modifying content data transmitted from a first computer to a second computer over a bi-directional communications network, comprising:

specifying content data output characteristics to be associated with the content data upon output by the second computer, the content data output characteristics defined by an applied expression, the applied expression not performing language translation but including at least one of character gender, character condition, and character environment;

transmitting the content data from the first computer to the second computer over the bi-directional communications network;

altering the content data that is to be output by the second computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics that are defined by the applied expression, the altering of content data further includes converting an audio component of the content data to text data <u>through a voice recognition process</u>, the text data being processed to converted text data, and the converted text data being synthesized to audio data;

wherein the first computer is coupled to a plurality of client computers over an interactive network, and wherein each user of a client computer is associated with a character represented in a program executed on each computer, each character having associated therewith a specific content data output characteristic, the method further including,

determining a relative location of each character in an environment defined by the program; and

altering the specific output characteristics of the audio output depending upon

the relative location of each character associated with each of the users.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second

computers are coupled to audio speakers, and wherein the content data output characteristics

comprise an audio output ratio for outputting content data from the audio speakers.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the location

information for the first and second computers are respectively obtained from the first and

second computers.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the location

information for the first and second computers are respectively determined by the physical

location of the first and second computers.

14.   (Previously presented) A system configured to modify content data

transmitted from a first computer to a second computer over a bi-directional communications

network, the system comprising:

means for specifying content data output characteristics to be associated with the

content data upon output by the second computer;

means for transmitting the content data from the first computer to the second

computer over the bi-directional communications network; and

means for altering the content data that is to be output by the second computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics specified through the first computer, the output characteristics identifying an expression to be applied to the content data, the applying of the expression not performing language translation, and the means for altering content data includes a voice recognition means for converting an audio component of the content data into text data, a text conversion means for processing the text data to converted text data, and a voice synthesis means to synthesize the converted text data to audio data that includes the applied expression.

15.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for receiving content data in the first computer;

means for transmitting the altered content data to the second computer over the bi-directional communications network; and

means for outputting the altered content data from the second computer.

16.   (Previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the received content data comprises voice data input into the first computer, and wherein the audio data of the altered content data being transmitted through audio speakers coupled to the second computer.

17.   (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein the content data output characteristics include at least one of character gender, character condition, and character environment.

18.   (Previously presented) The system according to claim 17, further comprising graphical input means for receiving content data output characteristics input through the second computer.

19.   (Previously presented) The system according to claim 17, further comprising graphical input means for receiving content data output characteristics input through the first computer.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the content data output characteristics comprise an audio output ratio for outputting altered content data from the audio speakers coupled to the second computer.

22.   (Currently amended) A server computer coupled to one or more client computers over a bi-directional communications network, comprising:

a circuit to transmit content data to a computer of the one or more client computers over the bi-directional communications network;

a circuit to specify content data output characteristics to be associated with the content data upon output by the computer; and

a circuit to alter the content data that is to be output by the computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics, the content data output characteristics identifying an expression to be applied to the content data and applying the expression does not include

performing language translation, the circuit to alter the content data includes <u>voice recognition</u> circuitry to convert an audio component of the content data to text data, circuitry to process the text data to converted text data, and circuitry to synthesize the converted text data to audio data.

23.   (Previously presented) The server computer of claim 22, further comprising:

a circuit to receive the content data; and

a circuit to transmit the altered content data to the computer over the bi-directional communications network.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Previously presented) The server computer of claim 23, wherein the received content data comprises voice data input into a first computer.

26.   (Previously presented) The server computer according to claim 25, wherein the content data output characteristics include parameters that alter the content data associated with audio output from the computer, the content data output characteristics comprising at least one of character gender, character condition, and character environment.

27.   (Previously presented) The server computer according to claim 23, wherein the bi-directional communications network comprises an interactive network, and wherein

the server computer and the one or more client computers include game consoles configured to execute an interactive game.

28.   (Previously presented) The server computer according to claim 27, wherein the content data output characteristics are associated with respective characters defined by the game, each one of the respective characters is associated with a particular client computer of the one or more client computers.

29.   (Previously presented) The server computer according to claim 28, comprising:

a circuit to determine a relative location of each one of the respective characters defined by the game; and

a circuit to alter the content data output characteristics of the audio output depending upon the location of each one of the respective characters associated with each client computer of the one or more client computers.

30.   (Currently amended) A server computer coupled to one or more client computers over a bi-directional communications network, comprising:

means for transmitting content data to a computer of the one or more client computers over the bi-directional communications network;

means for specifying content data output characteristics to be associated with the content data upon output by the computer; and

means for altering the content data that is to be output by the computer in accordance with the content data output characteristics, the content data output characteristics identifying an expression to be applied to the content data, and applying the expression does not include performing language translation, the means for altering the content data includes <u>voice recognition</u> means for altering an audio component of the content data to text data, means for processing the text data to converted text data, and means for synthesizing the converted text data to audio data for output in a client computer.

31.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the client computers includes a left and right speaker pair, and wherein the content data output characteristics comprise a relative audio output ratio for outputting altered content data from the left and right speakers.

32.   (Previously presented) An interactive network system, comprising;

a first computer;

a second computer, the second computer receiving content data from the first computer, wherein the content data is altered in accordance with content data output characteristics specified by the first computer, the interactive network system further comprising,

a voice recognition component, the voice recognition component converts an audio component of the content data to text data;

a text conversion component, the text conversion component processes the text data to converted text data, and

a voice synthesis component, the voice synthesis component synthesizes the converted text data to audio data for output in the second computer;

wherein audio data to be output at the second computer includes the application of an

expression alteration that does not include performing language translation.

33.   (Previously presented) An interactive network system as recited in claim 32,

wherein the content data received at the second computer is altered based on content data

output characteristics specified by the first computer the content data output characteristics

include location information of the first and second computers, the location information at

least partially affecting the altering of the content data when received at the second computer.

34.   (Previously presented) An interactive network system as recited in claim 33,

wherein the location information of the first and second computers are associated with

respective characters to be shown on a display of both of the first and second computers.

35.   (Previously presented) An interactive network system as recited in claim 34,

wherein the characters are parts of an interactive networked game in which participation in

the game is through the first and second computers.

36.   (Previously presented) An interactive network system as recited in claim 32,

wherein the first and second computers are networked together and a server assists in the

communication and data handling between the first and second computers.

37.   (Currently Amended) A gaming system, comprising:

a first gaming computer coupled over a gaming server to a second gaming computer,

a respective game character being controlled through each of the first gaming computer and

the second gaming computer,

wherein the first gaming computer enables the definition of content data output characteristics for its respective game character;

wherein the second gaming computer enables the definition of content data output characteristics for its respective game character, the content data output characteristics identifying an expression to be applied to the content data and applying the expression does not include performing language translation, the content data output characteristics further including instructions for converting audio data to text data <u>through a voice recognition process</u>, instructions for processing the text data to converted text data, and instructions for synthesizing the converted text data to audio data;

whereby the audio data to be output at the second gaming computer being associated with its respective game character, and the second gaming computer is used in altering audio data to be output at the first gaming computer, the audio data to be output at the first gaming computer being associated with its respective game character.